

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed July 9, 2003, Applicant elects for prosecution at this time claims 1-7, for examination purposes, without prejudice. These claims are drawn to a method to produce polymeric threads. This set of claims also contains one single independent claim. Therefore, Applicant regards the election of species moot at this point. Applicants specifically reserve the right to prosecute other claims at a later date in divisional applications.

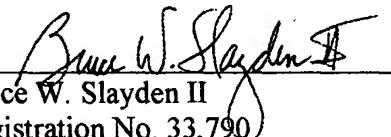
In addition, Applicant traverses the restriction requirement insofar that claims 8-18 should be included in the election. Claims 8-18 refer to an apparatus to produce polymeric threads and, thus, claims 1-18 clearly relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. It is common practice to combine a set of apparatus claims and method claims in an application that refers to the manufacture of a specific article. Thus, in countless applications a set of claims refers to the manufacturing process whereas a set of apparatus claims refers to an apparatus to perform the same manufacturing steps. Applicant therefore, respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the restriction requirement with respect to the claim grouping.

If there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-0383 (073306.0101).

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned agent for Applicant stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

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